

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BILBAO 00254 121503Z

43

ACTION COME-00

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FM AMCONSUL BILBAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 512

UNCLAS BILBAO 0254

E.O. 11652: N/JA

TAGS: BEXP, SP

SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECT: CENTRAL NUCLEAR DE SANTILLAN

REF: STATE 294198, BILBAO A-21

1. ELCETRA DE VIESGO MANAGING DIRECTOR MANUEL CORTINES (POINT OF CONTACT MENTIONED REFAIR) STATES PREFERRED SOURCE FOR STEAM SUPPLY SYSTEM IS U.S. BUT FINANCIAL TERMS MUST MEET EUROPEAN COMPETITION. HE MENTIONED EXAMPLE OF ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO WHEN WESTINGHOUSE LOST OUT TO KRAFT WERK UNION (COMBINATION AEG AND SIEMENS) IN BIDDING FOR UNION ELECTRIC'S CENTRAL DE TRILLO NUCLEAR PROJECT.

2. CORTINES SAID FUEL FABRICATION WILL INITIALLY BE U.S. SOURCE BUT THAT EVENTUALLY, PERHAPS IN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS, THERE WILL BE SPANISH CAPABILITY PROVIDED BY EMPRESA NACIONAL DEL URANIO (ENUSA), 60 PERCENT OWNED BY INI WITH GROUP OF PRIVATE ELECTRIC UTILITIES HAVING REMAINING 40 PERCENT EQUITY.

3. CENTRAL NUCLEAR DE SANTILLAN, ALTHOUGH 100 PERCENT CERTAIN OF EVENTUAL GOVERNMENT APPROVAL ACCORDING TO CORTINES, CONTINUES TO AWAIT RECEIPT OF PRELIMINARY APPROVAL BY THE JUNTA DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR (SPANISH EQUIVALENT OF U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION). ALTHOUGH THIS COULD COME WITHIN THREE MONTHS, ADDITIONAL DELAYS POSSIBLE DEPENDING UPON ORDER SEQUENCE TO BE ASSIGNED SEVERAL PENDING NUCLEAR PROJECTS BY GOVERNMENT.

4. CORINTES INDICATED DELAY MAY BE PARTIALLY DUE TO
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PAGE 02 BILBAO 00254 121503Z

REDUCED DEMAND FOR ELECTRICITY IN SPAIN COMPARED TO FORECASTS.

DROP IN ELECTRICITY DEMAND, ACCORDING TO CORTINES, WILL CAUSE
SUSPENSION OF SOME OF THE ELECTRIC POWER INSTALLATIONS COM-
TEMPLATED DURING 1975-1985 PERIDO UNDER DECREE 195/1975
OF FEBRUARY 13,1975. THIS DECREE PROVIDED PREPARATION OF A
PROGRAM OF COORDINATED ACTION OF ALL UTILITY COMPANIES WHICH WAS
EVENTUALLY SIGNED BY GOVERNAMENT AND COMPANIES ON OCTOBER 22.
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